Introduction to The Last Arrowmaker

This biography chronicles the life of Robert Gregory Vallejos who; at the time I recorded 27 audio cassette tapes between 2015 and 2016; was 84 years old and earnestly looking for wife #5.

I became that wife, but it took a full year before he succeeded. At the time I was married to a handsome, serviceable full bird colonel (USAF Ret). We lived in Chino Valley, AZ in an upscale home on the edge of the prairie.

Mr. V, as I called him, had just opened the Arrowmaker Rock Shop early in 2015, on the north end of town. He was living in a trailer behind the shop. Upon my first visit, I was like a kid in a candy store! I craved the delicious colors and patterns mother earth placed inside her stones. Mr. V saw a potential lapidary student and signed me up.

During our long, convoluted courtship, I began to record his life. The more he told me the more I realized how tortured and chaotic his life was – a truly wounded warrior.

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My role as narrator in these chapters will bounce between storyteller and interviewer. I will dabble in speculation and occasional "mystic observations." I will refer to Robert by the name most likely used at that time of his life. His names will range from Bob, Bobby, Robert, Roberto, Coyotito/Coyote, Pvt or SFC Vallejos, plus any number off-color handles. Additionally, I will include Spanish words such as tio (uncle) and tia (aunt). This was part of his heritage.

Accept the foul language. I make no apologies for how this man chose to express himself. All smaller case*, italic* words are quotes by Robert. Words within (parentheses) were added by me to keep the train of thought on track. Additionally, I hold a BA in Behavioral Science, therefore I cannot resist the tendency to interpret situations or motivations.

I acknowledge his surviving children. Many of their names are altered. Many will have a hard time accepting this storyline. For that reason, I can only relay what Robert said on tape, sometimes substantiated by what I could verify by public documents. A few instances told to me by his children, I did include. Their anger and disgust were understandable, but Robert never stopped loving them.

Overall, I am trying to give them "his side of their story".